

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Berry KERR Group Plastics Products

North Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Berry Plastics Writes Prescription for Success

Client Profile:

The Berry Plastics plant, formerly known as the Berry Kerr Group, manufactures child resistant and tamper evident closures for the pharmaceutical industry with clients such as Novartis, Wyeth, Merck and Pfizer. Berry Plastics has 60 manufacturing plants in the U.S. and abroad specializing in plastic packaging including containers, tubes, drink cups, bottles, closures, caps, industrial buckets, consumer products, prescription vials, and overcaps. The facility in Ahoskie, North Carolina employs 200 people.

Situation:

Berry Plastics was experiencing problems in its injection molding department. A 'rack-to-rack' changeover from good part to good part was limited, creating longer lead time to customers. A dye changeover was wasting 200 pounds of scrap and taking two hours to complete. Also, employee time was under utilized as disorganization led to searches for material and correct parts during the changeover. The company contacted the North Carolina State University Industrial Extension Services (IES), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

IES facilitated a SMED (Single Minute Exchange of Die) event to reduce changeover, increase productivity and reduce inventory.

Results:

- * Retained sales of \$2 million.
- * Realized \$165,000 in cost savings.
- * Invested \$1.2 million in plant and equipment.
- * Reduced changeover time from 12 hours to 3 hours.
- * Reduced Work in Process inventory by 80 percent.
- * Reduced rejection rate from 17 percent to 6 percent.
- * Reduced scrap from 200 lbs. to 3 lbs.
- * Retained 10 jobs.

Testimonial:

"We looked high and low for training help. It is a fact IES helped us."

David Hepburn, Plant Manager